

Portrait Painting.—We take pleasure in calling the attention of the public to the advertisement of Mr. Thompson, Portrait Painter, which will be found in this paper.

Death.—A Seaman belonging to the Brig Attakapas, was killed on Saturday last, by the falling of a boom, which struck him on the head. He fell into the river, and when fished up was found to be quite dead.

Fire.—On Monday morning last, about 9 o'clock, the Turpentine Distillery near the R Road Depot, owned by Henry Nutt, caught fire accidentally, we learn, and despite the vigorous exertions of our citizens, who rushed to the spot, the entire work of the concern was destroyed. The stills, we learn, are not damaged. The whololess will not amount to more than five hundred dollars.

The Clarksville Herald.—We perceive, by the last number of the Clarksville Herald, that friend Whitaker has doffed the neutral flag and hoisted Democratic colors. In his leading article of the 2d inst., he gives his reasons for so doing, which are ably and eloquently set forth. We take the hand of our brother of the Herald with much pleasure, and congratulate the Democracy of Virginia upon the accession of such a spirited and devoted advocate of their principles.

SHALL WE HAVE WAR?

This is the question which we find in every body's mouth. What are the chances for war? Any thing new from Washington? What's going on in Congress? What about Oregon? Are questions which are asked by all. The tariff, sub-treasury, and distribution have sunk into comparative insignificance, since the meeting of Congress. All eyes are turned to one object, the Oregon territory; all minds are directed to one subject, the state of our foreign relations. In another column of to day's paper will be found the resolutions introduced in the Senate by Mr. Hannegan, of Indiana, and also a substitute by way of amendment offered by Mr. Calhoun, of South Carolina. Should the resolutions of Mr. Hannegan be adopted by the Senate, we are, to speak candidly, of the opinion that war with England is inevitable. It will be seen that they were laid on the table, on motion of their author, to be taken up at a future day. For our own part, we cannot, under present circumstances, subscribe to the doctrine laid down in those resolutions. Particularly do we object to the last of the series. Although we feel convinced that our title to the whole of the Oregon territory, from 42° to 54° 40', is good against the world, still, as our government has frequently offered to compromise the dispute between Great Britain and ourselves, by giving the former all north of the 49th degree, we think, with Mr. Polk, that there is a kind of an implied faith on the part of the United States, to treat upon that basis. Mr. Polk again, for the fourth time, made this proposition. It was again rejected by the British Minister, whereupon the President withdrew it and asserted our right to the whole of the territory. Now we were of opinion at the time, and so we believe were a large majority of the American people, that Mr. Polk had done right in offering the 49th degree as a compromise, under the circumstances. That by so doing, he did not compromise the honor of the country. But should Mr. Hannegan's last resolution be adopted by the Senate, it would, to all intents and purposes, be a condemnation, not only of the action of Mr. Polk, but of his predecessors, who made the same proposition. We feel confident, however, that these resolutions will not be adopted by the Senate. In the amendment offered by Mr. Calhoun we heartily concur. There is a question in the minds of some, how far the withdrawal of all propositions by Mr. Polk and his assertion of our title to the whole of the territory, would now operate to prevent him from making any compromise with Great Britain. Some think that under present circumstances, we are, if we mean to preserve our honor, estopped, as the lawyers say, from giving up one inch of the territory. We entertain no such opinion. We are clearly of opinion that should England think proper to reopen the negotiation, and were she to propose the 49th degree, or were she to say that she was ready to accept that line should it again be offered by our government, the administration would be acting in perfect consonance with the best interests, as well as the honor of the country, in entertaining such proposition. We hope that we feel as deep and as lively an interest in the preservation of the honor and the interests of our country, as any one, and we will advocate war as strenuously as any one, should war be necessary to preserve either of these; but at the same time we go for peace, if, by any means, it can be honorably preserved. It is our impression that England will renew the negotiation partially broken off by Mr. Pakenham, and that she will be perfectly willing to accede to the last proposition of the United States. Should we be correct in our impressions, we think that it would be in a manner the duty of our Government, to settle the matter by compromise. Should, however, England continue obstinate, and insist upon the mouth of the Columbia river, we see no chance to avoid war; and then should war come, we go in for fighting for the whole. So long, however, as there is any chance for settling the matter amicably, and at the same time, honorably, we go for peace. That there will be war in reality, we do not believe. We feel perfectly confident that England will, upon mature deliberation, be willing and glad to accept the 49th degree, and that the people of the United States will also, as matters now stand, be willing to conclude a treaty on that basis.

OREGON—DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

On Tuesday, December 30th, a deeply interesting debate took place in the Senate, on the subject of the Oregon Territory. We wish our limits would permit us to give it in detail. But as this is not practicable, we will give the substance as briefly as we can. The debate arose on the resolutions submitted by Mr. Hannegan, of Indiana, on Monday, the 29th, now called up by that gentleman, for the purpose of moving to make them the order of the day, on some day next week. The following are the resolutions:

1. Resolved, That the country included within the parallels of forty-two degrees and fifty-four degrees forty minutes north latitude, and extending from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, known as the Territory of Oregon, is the property, and part and parcel of the territories of the United States.
2. Resolved, That there exists no power in this Government to transfer its soil and the allegiance of its citizens to the dominion, authority, control, and subjection of any foreign Power, Prince, State, or Sovereignty.
3. Resolved, That the abandonment or surrender of any portion of the Territory of Oregon would be an abandonment of the honor, character and the best interests of the American people.

Mr. Archer, of Virginia, submitted to the gentleman from Indiana that, as these resolutions were of the gravest importance, they should be printed, and the third Monday in January, set apart as the day for their discussion.

Mr. Hannegan acquiesced. Mr. Calhoun then rose and wished to make a few remarks before submitting an amendment to the resolutions just read. He said that he could not support the resolutions of the Senator from Indiana. For that, should they be adopted, the controversy could not be settled without war. That he was for peace—for an honorable peace. That he thought the matter could be settled by negotiation. That he approved the course of the President in offering the 49th degree as a compromise. That the resolutions of the Senator from Indiana impliedly censured the President for offering that compromise, and that, therefore, they ought not to be adopted. He accordingly offered the following amendment.

Strike out all after the word *resolved*, and insert

Resolved, That the President of the United States has the power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senate concur.

Resolved, That the power of making treaties embraces that of fixing and settling boundaries between the territories and possessions of the United States and those of other powers, in cases of conflicting claims between them in reference to the same.

Resolved, That however clear their claims, in their opinion, to the country included between the parallels of 49 deg. and 54 deg. 40 min. north latitude, and extending from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, known as the territory of Oregon, there now exist, and have always existed, conflicting claims to the possession of the same, between us and Great Britain—the adjustment of which has been the subject of negotiation between the respective Governments.

Resolved, That the President of the United States has, rightfully the power under the Constitution, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, provided two-thirds of the same concur, to adjust by treaty the claims of the two Governments to the said territory, by fixing a boundary for their present possessions.

Resolved, That the President of the United States, in renewing the offer in the spirit of peace and compromise to establish the 49th degree of North latitude as a line between the two countries to the said territory, did not abandon the honor, character, or the best interests of the American people, or exceed the powers vested in him by the Constitution, to make treaties.

Mr. Hannegan concurred in the two first propositions of the Senator from South Carolina, and denied that his resolutions censured the President.

Mr. Calhoun explained. He did not accuse the Senator of censuring the President, but said that the resolutions would have that effect.

Mr. Hannegan said that his resolutions spoke the language of truth, and if the declarations of the immutable principles of truth should bring war, let it come! That Texas and Oregon were born in the same instant, at the same Democratic Convention. That there was no hesitation about Oregon till after Texas was annexed. He never would consent to a surrender of any portion of the territory north of the 49th, nor one foot by treaty or otherwise, under 54° 40'.

Mr. Calhoun said that the same views which governed him on the Texas question, governed him on this. He would not go into the question now, but he would be prepared, if argument could show, that the course pursued by the Senator from Indiana—if the principles of these resolutions should be adopted—that so far from gaining one inch of Oregon, we should lose every inch.

Mr. Haywood was opposed to the resolutions, as well as the Senator from Indiana as the Senator from South Carolina. He was opposed, at this stage of the question, either to the one course or the other, and therefore would move to lay the resolutions on the table.

Mr. Calhoun remarked that he had not lauded the President, nor had he said that the Senator from Indiana had condemned him.

Mr. Archer, of Virginia, endeavored to make some little capital out of the difference of Democratic Senators, but utterly failed. He hailed the stand taken by Mr. Calhoun as an omen of peace, &c.

The debate was continued at some length, by Messrs. Allen, Haywood, Hannegan, Jno. M. Clayton, and Mr. Calhoun, upon the propriety of taking the negotiation out of the hands of the Executive at this juncture, and of foreclosing all future negotiation on the subject, as it was insisted by Mr. Calhoun that the resolutions of Mr. Hannegan would.

At the close of the debate, Mr. Hannegan moved to lay the resolutions on the table, to be taken up hereafter, when the subject of notices and bills should be in order, which was decided in the affirmative.

JOHN Q. ADAMS AND OREGON.

Mr. Adams, in the House on Friday last, the 2d inst., came out in direct opposition to most of his personal and political friends, and in a speech of some length, advocated the propriety of giving the year's notice to Great Britain immediately. This might have been expected, from the position which Mr. Adams assumed last winter. Mr. Adams goes for the whole of the Oregon Territory, and urges upon Congress the political necessity of being prompt in giving the notice. He objects to any military measures being adopted, until we have first complied with that section of the Convention of 1827, which provides that either party to the Convention may, at any time, give notice of the termination of the joint occupancy. Mr. Adams, in the course of his remarks, observed that it was his solemn conviction that, should this course be pursued, war with England would not ensue—that England knew too well that such a war would forever sever from her the Canadas. It was with difficulty that the Speaker could preserve order, such was the disposition to applaud Mr. Adams, whilst delivering this speech.

Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2, 1846.

The Senate did not sit to-day, having adjourned to Saturday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Cunningham, of Ohio, asked leave to introduce a series of resolutions claiming all that portion of Oregon designated by the resolutions of Mr. Hannegan in the Senate, and setting forth that inasmuch as no compromise ought to be accepted which includes the surrender of any portion of the Territory so designated, and as negotiations have ceased, therefore it is the imperative duty of Congress to take such measures as will fully protect our citizens who may emigrate to Oregon, and for the maintenance of our title, &c.

Objection being made, a motion was made to suspend the rules, so that the resolutions might be considered.

The vote was, yeas 75, nays 89, which not being two-thirds, the resolutions were not received.

Mr. Davis made an ineffectual motion to discharge the committee of the whole from the further consideration of the Oregon bill of Mr. Douglas, and that its several parts be referred to appropriate committees.

The further consideration of the bill was then postponed from the first to the second Tuesday in January.

After a very tedious debate relative to the publication of the 10th volume of the laws of the United States, the several standing committees were called upon for reports.

A bill was reported from the military committee providing for two regiments of riflemen. A motion being made to make it the special order for Tuesday week, and to refer it to a committee of the whole, a long and animated debate arose; in which Messrs. Holmes and Douglas had some rather sharp passages relative to the propriety of first giving the year's notice that we wish to terminate the joint occupancy.

Mr. Adams contended that the very first thing to be done would be to give the year's notice. Until that should be done, he would oppose any increase of the army or navy, or any other preparation for war. His firm opinion was that there is at present no danger of a war, nor could there be till the expiration of the year's notice. He was for giving that notice immediately, and after its expiration, he would be the first to go for the taking possession of the whole of Oregon. This declaration was received by tremendous cheering from all parts of the House.

After further remarks of a similar character, which were received with great applause, he gave it as his firm belief, that if Great Britain should construe our giving the notice as a cause of war, then there would be but one party in the country, and he would prophesy that the Oregon question would very soon be settled, and not only Oregon, but all the British possessions in this continent would quickly be subjected to the same process. (Great cheering.) In the course of his remarks, Mr. A. said he had heard from various quarters that the majority of the committee on foreign affairs did not intend to report the notice.

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll, the chairman of the committee, said no person had been authorized to make any such statement.

Mr. Adams reported that he had heard it from so many sources, that he thought it very probable, and if the report should be delayed much longer, he should believe it. (Great laughter.)

Mr. Holmes contended that the passage of the bill of Mr. Douglas, now in committee of the whole, and which provides for the occupation of the territory forthwith, would be a declaration of war. He desired first to see whether the House would pass that bill. If it did, he was willing to go, not for dollars, but for millions and millions of dollars. His opinion was, however, that the notice ought first to be given.

No question was taken when the House adjourned.

Correspondence of the Richmond Enquirer.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 2, 1846.

The Oregon fever burst forth in the House of Representatives this morning upon a question having no connection with the subject, and raged until the hour of adjournment.

Without intending to forestall your publication of the debate, I must sketch out the proceedings and remarks on the occasion, which created an intense excitement, altho' in point of fact they amounted to little, and are principally of interest, because the views of John Quincy Adams were expressed somewhat at length, and the depth of feeling in the House upon the subject was so instantaneously, as it were, made apparent.

Mr. Haralson reported a bill from the Committee on Military Affairs to provide for the raising, arming and equipping two additional rifle regiments, and moved its consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday next. This proposition was indeed solely by the wants of the peace establishment, which, in the opinion of the committee, should be increased, as our fortifications on the Western frontier and Atlantic coast are left unprotected by the necessary withdrawal of the troops for service in Texas. Mr. Houston of Alabama, opposed the motion to set apart any particular day for the consideration of the bill, on the ground that the business of the House would be embarrassed thereby. He thought such action was becoming too common, and that as a two-thirds vote was required to lay over business thus made "a special order," it frequently happened that subjects of much more importance, incidentally arising, were slighted to the injury of the public service.

Mr. Haralson again arose and went into a detailed explanation of the purpose of the bill. He declared, that its importance at the present moment justified the committee in asking such disposition of it; and that he had selected that day in order to avoid interfering with the Oregon bill reported by Mr. Douglas from the Committee on Territories. He conceived, too, that it would doubtless obviate the necessity for one section of that bill. General Houston again insisted on the propriety of his views at greater length—After which, Mr. Douglas remarked that he coincided with Mr. Haralson on the question immediately before the House; and, further, that he must be permitted to express the hope that the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, on Indian Affairs, and, indeed, all about to present bills incidentally bearing on the Oregon question, would hand in their reports, so as to have them before the House, and, if possible, out of the way, ere the bill from the Territorial Committee came up for consideration. He included in this category the report from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, upon the subject of giving the "notice." He conceived it of great importance that the field should be cleared for the consideration of the main questions involved, especially in the bill concerning which he expressed so much anxiety. He had no disposition to underrate the importance of the matters to be presented by other committees for the consideration of the House, which would be well digested and properly presented by the able gentleman having particular jurisdiction over them. Mr. Davis of Kentucky interrupted him, with an inquiry as to what could appropriately come from the Committee on Territories on the subject, if all questions were to be left for the consideration of other committees? Mr. Douglas, in reply said that though they might be appropriate to other committees, the recommendations made by the Committee on Territories regarding their connection with the main question, did not come improperly from that source, as all the House Committees had concurrent jurisdiction. For instance, the Committee on Manufactures and that on Ways and Means reported indiscriminately on the Tariff. He recalled to the recollection of the House, the fact that the Oregon bill of the previous session, as reported, was considered incomplete; for all mention of notice for the termination of the joint occupancy was originally omitted. The Territorial Committee, continued Mr. D. profiting by the history of that bill, had covered all subjects necessary to be embraced in their report. This he considered a satisfactory answer to the inquiry of the gentleman from Kentucky.

Turning next to the objections of the gentleman from Alabama, he characterized them as a finesse, to avoid meeting the Oregon question in all its bearings. Mr. H. here interposed, and remarked, that the gentleman could not surely intend to charge him with flinching for such a purpose, as he had expressed to him, in person, not only his willingness to meet the main question, and all others involved therein, but also to sustain his identical bill.

Mr. Douglas then disclaimed all personal allusions, but considered it most evident that there was a feverish excitement—a dodging on the part of members to avoid the issue.—"Dodging," said Mr. Holmes of S. Carolina—"yes, sir, 'dodging' is the word. I hope my honorable friend from S. Carolina will be as eager to assert and maintain our rights in this instance, as in the case of Texas." He continued giving his views on the Oregon Question somewhat at length, and declared his wish to meet England as promptly in this controversy, as Mexico was met, but a short time since, when Texas was in issue. The balance of his remarks were devoted to an appeal to the House, on the subject of the necessity of immediate and energetic action in the premises.

Mr. Holmes of South Carolina next obtained the floor, and occupied the attention of the House for a few moments. He spoke in so low a tone, that only those crowding around him could catch his remarks in detail. He was, however, understood to say, that he was for further efforts to maintain peace, which he conceived must be sacrificed, if the proposition from the Committee on Territories should be passed by the House. Nothing in his judgment would more surely lead to war than giving the notice.

Mr. John Q. Adams next arose, and commenced by alluding to a bill on his table, from the Senate, for raising an additional regiment of mounted men. He desired to know the meaning of these various propositions for the increase of our military force, coming, as they do, from gentlemen who are usually distinguished for steady opposition to all appropriations for military purposes. Indeed, they had, but a short time since, not only proposed, but by dint of pertinacity, had actually carried through a bill for a considerable decrease of the then existing military force of the country. He conceived, that these movements evidently looked to the possibility of a rupture with England, and he judged them to be premature, as they should rather come after than precede the "notice." In his opinion, the passage of these various propositions would be equivalent to an actual occupation of the territory, which would be a violation of express treaty stipulations. He had, by-the-by, been surprised to hear the existing convention, with Great Britain upon the subject of Oregon, styled a treaty for joint occupancy. On the contrary, it expressly inhibited occupation, in the common expectation of the term, by either party. It was, in his judgment but a convention, securing to subjects of either government common privileges, for the purpose of commerce, navigation, and trading with the Indians, and expressly providing against occupation, except after the twelve months' notice called for therein. He was so strongly in favor of the strict observance of national engagements, whether treaties or conventions, that he should feel constrained to oppose all the propositions before alluded to, until the notice was officially given, which should precede all other movements. He expressed a belief that the Committee on Foreign Affairs did not intend to report in favor of the abrogation of the convention; such was the public impression, at least.

Mr. Charles J. Ingersoll (the Chairman of that Committee) enquired by what authority he arrived at the conclusion that such a course was determined on by the Committee. He felt assured it had not emanated from the Committee themselves, and also denied that any one was authorized to say what they would or would not do on the subject.

Mr. Adams continued—saying, that if they (the Committee) did not report speedily, he should conclude there was good ground for the common rumor as to their determination. As for himself, he would vote for giving the notice, *instantly*; that such a course did not necessarily draw war in its train; and that he did not believe that war would arise out of the controversy, take whatever shape it might. However, if hostilities should result from giving the notice, the *onus* would undoubtedly rest on the shoulders of Britain, whose rulers could have no possible right to take offence at our terminating the convention in the manner expressly provided therein for the purpose. He expressed a willingness to go as far as any member in the House in voting appropriations for this purpose, *providing* that the divisions of party were not separated of Republican hearts. It is when there comes booming across the sea a note of preparation and defiance that we are made to know that

the most inveterate party feuds are but the ruffling of the surface of public feeling, beneath which the love of country, the love of liberty, and the love of one another lie in volumes of unathomable depths. The friction of foreign opposition serves but to rub off the rust which has gathered upon the outside, and dims the brightness of the American character. It is when our institutions are threatened that we feel more keenly how dear they are to us. The violence of party disputes is one of the cankers of a long peace. We quarrel with one another till we can fight with somebody else. The luxuriance of a voluptuous soil gives us time to spend in political disputations, and the absence of all enmity to our form of Government narrows down controversies to a contest for its administration. In all the divisions of party there is none against the Constitution. The Government itself will be supported whoever is at its head: hence the harmlessness of our internal strife. A more impressive lesson on this point was never given than by the Senate in the debate cited; and the sequel will bear out its instruction, whenever the people are called upon to take up arms in the defence of the national rights. We are indeed but one party, one people—the American party, the American people.

Mr. Charles J. Ingersoll next obtained the floor to continue the debate, but the House adjourned. He will, of course, make the next speech on the subject. Words cannot express the deep excitement which pervades all breasts here, nor can it possibly be allayed until the future course of the American Government upon the subject is publicly known. Notwithstanding the efforts daily and hourly being made to repress it, the feeling will show itself, as to-day in the House, and of late in the Senate, at every turn in debate, upon which an allusion to the question can possibly be introduced. Your readers may rest assured (or I am most egregiously mistaken) that Congress will pursue the course shadowed forth in the President's Message. The notice will be given.

From the New Orleans Picayune.

OUR COUNTRY.

The Late Debate in the U. S. Senate.

A careful perusal of the late debate in the Senate of the United States, upon Mr. Cass's resolutions, will scarcely fail to excite in the mind of every American citizen a feeling of cheerfulness even in contemplating the dreadful issue to which the speakers made such frequent allusion. War! was the burden of the debate. War! with the most gigantic power that ever yet arose to overawe mankind or smite the nations with the sword. War with England! the scourge of earth, the terror of ocean. War with a Government whose armies shake the land with the trampling of feet, whose fleets throng the seas like natives of the deep. And yet the debate in the Senate, in direct allusion to such a war, was such as to inspire the confidence in the public which abides the coming of events with hopefulness.

If we except the observations of a single Senator, whose idiosyncrasies are better suited to the stump than the forum, there was not one expression that savored of bombast, bullying or bluster employed in the two days during which this most exciting discussion was continued. And if we omit the remarks of another, whose temperaments is somewhat fiery, there was nothing said, for even so long a time, that betrayed impatience or restlessness. The spirit which pervaded the debate was firm and patriotic. The sentiments which were uttered by all—and the most distinguished members of either party engaged in it—were calculated to strengthen the heart of the country and regulate its pulsations. The love of peace was the most prominent feeling evinced by the Senate. No member, with the exception already made, desired to hurl the gaze of battle to Great Britain; not one harbored in his bosom the craving of a swash-buckler, or nurtured the propensities of a bloodhound. Permeated the universal worship, and upon her shrine all were willing to lay down whatever was wanting to the proposition—except the national rights, except the national honor. Such of the speakers as regarded the title of the U. S. States to the whole of Oregon as perfect and absolute, and who avowed a determination to insist in future upon our entire claim, were nevertheless satisfied that offers of compromise had been repeatedly made to England; and those Senators who deprecated the tone of the debate, as calculated to excite needless apprehension in the public mind, were as ready as the rest to prepare the country for any emergency that might arise. There was enough said and done to satisfy the country that we will not be made in a reckless spirit, nor injustice submitted to in a craven one. The causes of collision will be carefully canvassed, that nothing be omitted that the interests of humanity may require to be done to ward off the alternative of blood; but at the same time the national rights will be guarded with such vigilance that jealousy may sleep in the safety of the national honor.

Another aspect of this debate was so bright as almost to make the rugged visage of war pleasing. We allude to the glow of patriotism which for the time illuminated the Senate chamber and illustrated the character of our institutions and people. The mists of party were dissipated in that hall, and the country, the whole country—broad, beautiful and bountiful—commanded the devotion of every heart, the idolatry of every mind. No words were wasted in party eliminations—no breath spent in glorifying faction. The condition, the necessities, the prosperity and the well-being of the Union were alone considered. The objections which were offered to the presentation of some thought their discussions, in a warlike vein, at this time, would needlessly inflame upon a numerous class of citizens; and the conflict of opinion was waged in a manner to reveal more precisely the state of a question which threatened the peace of nations. No one allowed party obligations to qualify his presence of faction to a scene it could but mar.

The exhibition in the Senate was such as justified the language of Mr. Crittenden, who, in the course of his remarks, said, "I trust on this question we need not speak of sides of this house—that on the question between us and England there is but one side here, the American side; but one party, the American party." The unanimous vote in favor of the resolutions was but a ratification of a sentiment which characterized the whole debate. There was but one party, one vote on the questions before them. Nor are there two parties in the country on these questions. The melting away in the Senate chamber of the rigid barriers which keep whig and democrat asunder, is but typical of the fusion of all distinctions, all classes, all divisions of our people in one great American party in regard to the matters of that debate. The fierceness of political disputes, the bitterness of electioneering campaigns, and the frenzy of popular controversies, lead many to imagine the people of the United States a divided and disjointed nation. But the foreign power that experiments upon our party weakness, and insinuates itself between whig and democrat, will find itself crushed as between the upper and nether mill-stone. It sometimes requires a menace from abroad to convince ourselves that the divisions of party are not separations of Republican hearts. It is when there comes booming across the sea a note of preparation and defiance that we are made to know that

the most inveterate party feuds are but the ruffling of the surface of public feeling, beneath which the love of country, the love of liberty, and the love of one another lie in volumes of unathomable depths. The friction of foreign opposition serves but to rub off the rust which has gathered upon the outside, and dims the brightness of the American character. It is when our institutions are threatened that we feel more keenly how dear they are to us. The violence of party disputes is one of the cankers of a long peace. We quarrel with one another till we can fight with somebody else. The luxuriance of a voluptuous soil gives us time to spend in political disputations, and the absence of all enmity to our form of Government narrows down controversies to a contest for its administration. In all the divisions of party there is none against the Constitution. The Government itself will be supported whoever is at its head: hence the harmlessness of our internal strife. A more impressive lesson on this point was never given than by the Senate in the debate cited; and the sequel will bear out its instruction, whenever the people are called upon to take up arms in the defence of the national rights. We are indeed but one party, one people—the American party, the American people.

To the Editor of the Union:

MILTON, N. C., Dec. 17, 1845.

Sir: As the public mind is much excited on the Oregon question, I have thought that it might not be uninteresting to you to inform; that I have in my possession a British atlas (Ewing's), published by 'Oliver & Boyd,' Edinburgh, in which the northwestern boundary of the United States is laid down precisely as claimed by our government, viz: Following the 49th parallel of north latitude from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky mountains—thence along the said range of mountains to 54°40'—and thence west with said parallel to the Pacific Ocean.

This atlas was purchased in Liverpool in 1833, from 'Willan & Wood,' booksellers of that city, and whose card is pasted on the inside of the cover. Unlike similar publications in this country, this atlas is without date; but it was of recent publication at the time it was purchased, which also appears from the fact that the boundary line between the British and Russian possessions is stated in the map as settled in 1825.

Now when we reflect that this atlas was published in the literary metropolis of Great Britain, and sold in the second commercial city of the kingdom; that it was compiled expressly for British schools; and that, in the preface, the author professes to have consulted the latest discoveries, and the most celebrated British authorities, the conclusion is almost irresistible, that notwithstanding the pretensions of the British government to the Oregon territory, the opinion of the British geographers, and the public sentiment of the British nation, were decidedly in our favor. For it is inconceivable, that a British author, in preparing such a work for sale, would, in such an important point, run counter to public opinion. Should you deem the matter of sufficient importance to notice it in your paper, this letter is at your service, and the atlas, too, if you wish it.

From the Washington Union.

THE "NEW BOOKS."

During the campaign of 1840, Mr. Daniel Webster, the great whig leader, proclaimed that if his party came into power, a set of "new books" would be opened in the departments at Washington, and that confusion and extravagance would give place to regularity and economy. We have taken some pains to examine the old democratic and the new whig books, and can now speak of the evidence they afford of the fulfillment of whig promises. The following table is compiled from the records of the Treasury Department, and can be relied upon:

Debt.	Amount of debt on 4th March, 1841.	Amount of debt on 4th March, 1845.
Old unfunded debt.	\$26,522,442	\$22,961,253
Treasury notes, (old.)	3,275,200	3,243,336
Mississippi stock, (1815.)	4,540,000	4,520,000
Unclaimed interest and principal of old funded debt.	292,350	203,544
Debt of the corporate cities of District of Columbia.	1,440,000	1,900,000
Treasury notes, (new.)	6,680,831	1,232,475
Loan of 1841.	8,343,886	137,814
Do 1842.	1,512	8,343,886
Do 1843.		6,684,231

By this table, it will be seen that the "new books" show an increase of the public debt during the late administration of \$10,363,717.89. That debt, as it existed when the whigs came into power, consisted of \$326,968.25 of the balance of old debts, mostly revolutionary and unclaimed; \$1,440,000 of the debts of Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria, assumed by Congress during General Jackson's administration; and \$5,680,831.40 contracted under Mr. Van Buren's—growing out of the Florida war, and the fulfilling of Indian treaties.

Hence it will be seen that the whig "new books" show we have a national debt of about EIGHTEEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, more than TEN MILLIONS of which constitute one of the legacies of the late whig administration. Whig promises of retrenchment and economy end in millions of debt. This is the manner in which the democracy predicted they would fulfil their boasted undertakings. They proposed, during the previous campaign, to reduce our annual expenditures to thirteen millions of dollars, and relieve us from all debt and unnecessary taxation. But Mr. Webster's "new books" show that they increased our expenses and our taxes by the unequal and unjust tariff of 1842, and have left the people to struggle with a heavy national debt. We are happy now to be able to state that the present administration has already paid about one million and a quarter of the principal and interest of this whig debt, and that it is fully prepared to pay every dollar as it shall fall due. While the most rigid economy is practised, and the greatest possible vigilance is used to protect the treasury from fraud, the officers of the Treasury Department afford every possible facility to the honest creditors of the government to secure their just dues. Justice is done to all. Under honest, and efficient, and economical democratic administration, public creditors will be promptly paid, and the whig "new books" balanced. It will be long, we trust, before the intelligent people of this country will permit the whigs to open another set of "new books," on which to charge them with other millions of whig debt.

SUGAR CROP.—There has been much exaggeration about the effects of cold and frost upon the sugar crop. We have said nothing on this subject heretofore. But we feel authorized to affirm, that much less damage has been done by the frost than was apprehended. The planters, taught by experience, have taken precautions to save their crop, and cut the cane before the appearance of the frost, and in this manner have averted the damage that threatened them.

We learn that the rolling still continues on several plantations, and that the quality of the sugar is excellent, without losing much of the cane. The crop is better than an average one, and if any loss is occasioned by the cold, the whole deficiency will not amount to more than 20,000 hogheads in the whole State.—N. O. Courier.